

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062181

14

ORIGIN AF-02

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-02 /005 R

66665

DRAFTED BY: AF: RA: PETER C. WALKER

APPROVED BY: AF: RA: PETER C. WALKER

IO: UNP: MR. DWORKIN

AF: W: MR. AGGREY ( SUBS)

AF: E: MR. MELONE ( SUBS)

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P 042059 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUESGN/ AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY 3817

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USUN NEW YORK,

LISBON APRIL 3, 1973 FROM GENEVA IS REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SOCI, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - PORTUGUESE LETTER RE REPORT  
OF AD HOC GROUP ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ( ITEM 10 A)

1. PORTUGUESE PERM. REP. IN GENEVA SENT LETTER DATED  
31 MARCH TO CHAIRMAN OF HRC ( E/ CN:4/1126) MAKING SHARP  
ATTACK ON REPORT OF WORKING GROUP. THE LETTER TOOK  
ISSUE WITH PHRASE " AFRICAN TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE  
DOMINATION" WHICH IT DEEMED INSULTING. FURTHER  
QUESTIONED IMPARTIALITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE GROUP  
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PAGE 02 STATE 062181

BECAUSE OF " THEIR DOUBLE NATIONAL AND POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE OR ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR RELIGION." LETTER CONTINUED THAT " WITNESSES" WERE CHOSEN FROM AMONG MEMBERS OR ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AGAINST PORTUGAL. A WHOLE LIST OF ATROCITIES ATTRIBUTED TO PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN BUILT UP AND WHOLLY UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. ACCUSATIONS ARE SO ABSURD AS TO BE ALMOST GROTESQUE. GROUP COMPLETELY DISREGARDED UNIMPEACHABLE EVIDENCE OF MEMBERS OF NUMEROUS BODIES THAT HAVE FREELY VISITED PORTUGAL DURING RECENT YEARS.

2. LETTER REFERRED TO ICRC REPORTS WHICH FOUND CONDITIONS OF DETENTION NORMAL AND SATISFACTORY. GROUP DISREGARDED THESE REPORTS. GOP CANNOT, WITHOUT BETRAYING THE RESPECT IT OWES TO ITSELF AND THE PORTUGUESE NATION, REPLY TO THIS TYPE OF ATTACK AND CONFINED TO REJECTING CATEGORICALLY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH IT HOLDS TO BE FALSE AND TENDENTIOUS AS WELL AS INSULTING. GOP REITERATES THAT ACCESS TO OVERSEAS PROVINCES REMAINS OPEN TO ALL WHO, WITHOUT PARTISAN PREJUDICES, WISH TO VISIT THEM AND SEE WHAT THE PORTUGUESE REALITY IS.

3. THE LETTER WAS CIRCULATED AS A COMMISSION DOCUMENT AND GAVE RISE TO PROTESTS BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS. PAKISTAN, GHANA AND NIGERIA ORALLY PROPOSED FOLLOWING DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH HASTILY ADOPTED ON CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL BY CONSENSUS:

" HRC HAVING EXAMINED THE LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

1. REJECTS THE ALLEGATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OFFERED IN THAT LETTER;

2. DEPLORES PORTUGAL'S REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WITH THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP AND ITS PERPETUATION OF THE INHUMAN TREATMENT OF THE PEOPLES OF TERRITORIES UNDER ITS OCCUPATION IN AFRICA."

COMMENT: IN VIEW OF HIGHLY OFFENSIVE TONE OF PORTUGUESE LETTER AND CHAIRMAN'S ACTION IN RUSHING THROUGH CONSENSUS DECISION, U. S. REP ( FERGUSON) DECIDED NOT TO INSIST ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 062181

VOTE IN WHICH WE WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED. RIMESTAD UNQUOTE ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 04 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** willialc  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - PORTUGUESE LETTER RE REPORT OF AD HOC GROUP ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ( ITEM 10 A)  
**TAGS:** SOCI, TU, ECOSOC  
**To:** ACCRA  
ADDIS ABABA  
CONAKRY  
DAKAR  
DAR ES SALAAM  
LAGOS  
LUSAKA

**Type:** TE

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